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USICA ATTN PAO, IO: HERewith N.Y. TIMES ARTICLE BY JUAN DEBONIS, DATED SEPT. 23, HEADED "HOPES RISE IN ARGENTINA FOR TIMERMAN'S EARLY RELEASE". FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY.
(BEGIN TEXT)
BUENOS AIRES, SEPT. 22 - JACOBO TIMERMAN, ARGENTINA'S MOST PROMINENT POLITICAL PRISONER, IS SPENDING THE JEWISH NEW YEAR HOLIDAY IN DETENTION, BUT WITH HOPES OF BEING EXPELLED SOON TO FREEDOM ABROAD.
THE MILITARY JUNTA HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY INFORMED BY THE SUPREME COURT OF A DECISION MADE BY THE FIVE JUSTICES THIS WEEK THAT THERE IS NO LEGAL BASIS FOR HOLDING MR. TIMERMAN AND THAT HE SHOULD BE RELEASED.
MR. TIMERMAN, THE 55-YEAR-OLD FORMER PUBLISHER OF THE NEWSPAPER LA OPINION, HAS BEEN UNDER DETENTION SINCE APRIL 1977, WHEN HE WAS ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH A MILITARY INVESTIGATION OF THE ALLEGED CHANNELING OF FUNDS BY A LEFTIST GUERRILLA ORGANIZATION THROUGH DAVID GRAIVER, A BANKER WHO ONCE LENT MONEY TO MR. TIMERMAN.
A MILITARY COURT CLEARED MR. TIMERMAN OF ANY CONNECTION WITH TH GUERRILLA FUNDS OR ANY OTHER SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY. THE SUPREME COURT FIRST RULED IN JULY 1978 THAT MR. TIMERMAN COULD NOT BE HELD UNDER EMERGENCY DECREES USED TO DETAIN SUSPECTED SUBVERSIVES. BUT THE MILITARY JUNTA INSISTED THAT HE BE HELD AND CONFISCATED HIS NEWSPAPER, UNDER AN "ACT OF INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY" BY WHICH PEOPLE CAN BE DEPRIVED OF POLITICAL RIGHTS AND PROPERTY ILLEGALLY OBTAINED AND HELD WITHOUT JUDICIAL CHARGES.
THE SECOND SUPREME COURT DECISION THIS WEEK REPORTEDLY RULED THAT THE POLITICAL STATUTE, DIRECTED AGAINST PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND CORRUPT ASSOCIATES UNDER THE OLD PERONIST REGIME, WAS NOT APPLICABLE TO MR. TIMERMAN'S CASE.
GOVERNMENT SOURCES SAID THE JUNTA AND PRESIDENT JORGE RAFAEL VIDELA WOULD DISCUSS THE SUPREME COURT DECISION AT A MEETING WEDNESDAY. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT MR. TIMERMAN, WHO WAS BORN IN THE SOVIET UNION BUT CAME HERE WHEN HE WAS 4 YEARS OLD,

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WILL BE EXPELLED FROM ARGENTINA AND DEPRIVED OF HIS ARGENTINE CITIZENSHIP.
MR. TIMERMAN, AN ACTIVE ZIONIST WHOSE FAMILY ALREADY HAS MOVED TO ISRAEL, HAS LONG TOLD THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO GO TO ISRAEL. BUT ATTEMPTS BY SOME MILITARY FIGURES TO PUSH THROUGH AN ORDER FOR HIS EXPULSION HAVE BEEN BLOCKED BY HARD-LINE MILTARY MEN.
THERE HAS BEEN INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM OF THE PROLONGED DETENTION, WITHOUT CHARGES, OF MR. TIMERMAN, WHO WAS TORTURED BY SECURITY GUARDS AT THE LA PLATA PRISON DURING THE INVESTIGATION OF THE GRAIVER CASE. ONE OF HIS ASSOCIATES AT LA OPINION, EDGARDO SAJON, WAS SEIZED BY ARMED MEN AND HAS BEEN MISSING SINCE APRIL 1977.
SINCE THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION BECAME KNOWN, POLICE GUARDS AT THE APARTMENT BUILDING IN THE ELEGANT BARRIO NORTE WHERE MR. TIMERMAN IS UNDER HOUSE ARREST HAVE BEEN REINFORCED AND ISSUED ADDITIONAL ARMS. THIS MAY BE DESIGNED TO BLOCK ANY ATTACK AGAINST MR. TIMERMAN BY RIGHT-WING EXTREMISTS, WHO HAVE VIOLENTLY CRITICIZED MR. TIMERMAN IN THEIR PUBLICATIONS AS A ZIONIST AND "IDEOLOGICAL DELINQUENT."
THE MOST IMPORTANT MILITARY LEADER URGING MR. TIMERMAN'S RELEASE, TO REDUCE INTERNATIONAL FRICTION, IS GEN. ROBERTO VIOLA, THE ARMY COMMANDER. IF MR. TIMERMAN IS FREED, IT WOULD INDICATE THAT GENERAL VIOLA HAS WON A MAJORITY OF SENIOR GENERALS TO HIS VIEW OVER THE OPPOSITION, LED BY GEN. CARLOS SUAREZ MASON, THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF.
THE SAME CONFLICT BETWEEN FACTIONS OCCURRED OVER THE VISIT HERE OF THE INTERAMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, WHICH COMPLETED A 14-DAY STAY THURSDAY. THE HARD-LINE OPPONENTS, AGAIN LED BY GEN. SUAREZ MASON AND GEN. LUCIANO MENENDEZ, COMMANDER OF THE THIRD ARMY CORPS IN CORDOBA, WERE
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